

## PENDING CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic organic polymer having one or more aromatic groups and having at least one quaternary ammonium group, the cationic organic polymer being a cationic polysaccharide and being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and
- (ii) an anionic polymer having one or more aromatic groups, the anionic polymer being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers, and the anionic polymer being a formaldehyde-naphtalene sulfonate condensation polymer ~~selected from the group consisting of step growth polymers, polysaccharides, and naturally occurring aromatic polymers and modifications thereof, with the proviso that the anionic polymer is not an anionic melamine-sulphonic acid condensation polymer;~~

and forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

2. **Canceled.**

3. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer has a weight average molecular weight above about 1,000,000.

5. **Canceled.**

6. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim 1 5, wherein the anionic polymer is prepared from one or more aromatic compounds selected from the group consisting of phenyl, phenol, naphthalene, naphthol, and mixtures thereof.

7. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 1, wherein the anionic polymer is a lignin-based polymer.

8. **Canceled.**

9. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 1, wherein the anionic polymer is an anionic polyurethane.

10. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the anionic polymer has a weight average molecular weight within the range of from 500 to 1,000,000.

11. **Canceled.**

12. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension has a conductivity of at least 2.0 mS/cm.

13. **Canceled.**

14-19. **Canceled.**

20. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 15, wherein the anionic polymer is a naturally occurring aromatic polymer or modification thereof.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 20, wherein the anionic polymer is a lignin-based polymer.

22. **Canceled.**

23. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 15, wherein the anionic polymer is an anionic polyurethane.

24 -29. **Canceled.**

30. **(Withdrawn)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic starch having one or more aromatic groups, the cationic starch being added in an amount of at least 0.005% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and
- (ii) an anionic polyurethane having one or more aromatic groups, the anionic polyurethane being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers;

forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

31. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein the cationic starch is cationic potato starch or cationic waxy maize starch.

32. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein the anionic polyurethane has a weight average molecular weight within the range of from 500 to 1,000,000.

33. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein the anionic polyurethane is prepared from a monomer mixture comprising toluene-2,4-diisocyanate, toluene-2,6-diisocyanate, diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate or a mixture thereof.

34. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein it further comprises adding a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer to the suspension prior to adding the cationic polysaccharide.

35. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein the suspension has a conductivity of at least 3.5 mS/cm.

36. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 30, wherein it further comprises recycling white water and introducing from 0 to 30 tons of fresh water per ton of paper produced.

37. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic starch having one or more aromatic groups and having at least one quarternary ammonium group, the cationic starch being added in an amount of at least 0.005% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and
- (ii) an anionic ~~benzene-based or naphthalene-based~~ condensation polymer, the anionic condensation polymer being a formaldehyde-naphthalene sulfonate condensation polymer and being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers;

forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

38. **(Original)** The process of claim 37, wherein the cationic starch is cationic potato starch or cationic waxy maize starch.

39. **(Original)** The process of claim 37, wherein the anionic condensation polymer is prepared from one or more aromatic compounds selected from the group consisting of phenyl, phenol, naphthalene, naphthol, and mixtures thereof.

40-41. **Canceled.**

42. **(Original)** The process of claim 37, wherein the suspension has a conductivity of at least 3.5 mS/cm.

43. **Canceled.**

44. **(Withdrawn)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic starch having one or more aromatic groups, the cationic starch being added in an amount of at least 0.005% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and

- (ii) an anionic lignin-based polymer having one or more aromatic groups, the anionic lignin-based polymer being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers;
- forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

45. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 44, wherein the cationic starch is cationic potato starch or cationic waxy maize starch.

46. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 44, wherein the anionic lignin-based polymer is a sulphonated lignin.

47. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 44, wherein it further comprises adding a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer to the suspension prior to adding the cationic starch.

48. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 44, wherein the suspension has a conductivity of at least 3.5 mS/cm.

49. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 44, wherein it further comprises recycling white water and introducing from 0 to 30 tons of fresh water per ton of paper produced.

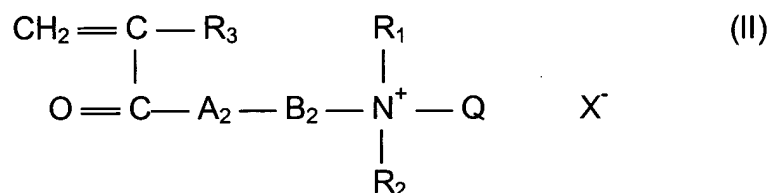
50. **(Withdrawn)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic vinyl addition polymer having one or more aromatic groups, the cationic vinyl addition polymer being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and
  - (ii) an anionic lignin-based polymer having one or more aromatic groups, the anionic lignin-based polymer being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers;
- forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 50, wherein the anionic lignin-based polymer is a sulphonated lignin.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 50, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 50, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is prepared by polymerization of a monomer mixture comprising a cationic monomer represented by the general structural formula (II):



wherein  $\text{R}_3$  is H or  $\text{CH}_3$ ;  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;  $\text{A}_2$  is O or NH;  $\text{B}_2$  is an alkyl or alkylene group having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, or a hydroxy propylene group; Q is a benzyl group; and  $\text{X}^-$  is an anionic counterion.

54. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 50, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is vinylamine-based polymer.

55. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 50, wherein it further comprises adding a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer to the suspension prior to adding the cationic vinyl addition polymer.

56. **(Withdrawn)** A process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers, which comprises separately adding to the suspension

- (i) a cationic vinyl addition polymer having one or more aromatic groups the cationic vinyl addition polymer being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers; and

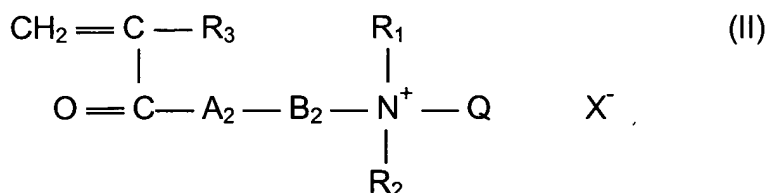
(ii) an anionic polyurethane having one or more aromatic groups, the anionic polyurethane being added in an amount of at least 0.001% by weight based on dry cellulosic fibers and optional fillers;  
forming and draining the obtained suspension on a wire.

57. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 56, wherein the anionic polyurethane has a weight average molecular weight within the range of from 500 to 1,000,000.

58. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 56, wherein the anionic polyurethane is prepared from a monomer mixture comprising toluene-2,4-diisocyanate, toluene-2,6-diisocyanate, diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate or a mixture thereof.

59. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 56, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

60. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 56, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is prepared by polymerization of a monomer mixture comprising a cationic monomer represented by the general structural formula (II):



wherein  $\text{R}_3$  is H or  $\text{CH}_3$ ;  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;  $\text{A}_2$  is O or NH;  $\text{B}_2$  is an alkyl or alkylene group having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, or a hydroxy propylene group; Q is a benzyl group; and  $\text{X}^-$  is an anionic counterion.

61. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 56, wherein the cationic vinyl addition polymer is a vinylamine-based polymer.

62. **(New)** The process of claim 1 further comprising adding a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer to the suspension prior to adding the cationic organic polymer having one or more aromatic groups.

63. **(New)** The process of claim 1 further comprising recycling white water and introducing from 0 to 30 tons of fresh water per ton of paper produced.

64-65. **Canceled.**

66. **(New)** The process of claim 37 further comprising adding a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer to the suspension prior to adding the cationic starch.

67. **(New)** The process of claim 37 further comprising recycling white water and introducing from 0 to 30 tons of fresh water per ton of paper produced.